

SC11824TS

REMARKS

In the Office Action the Examiner rejected all claims 15-17 under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being obvious. Claims 15-17 remain in the application.

The Examiner used Maher as the only reference. The Examiner viewed Maher as meeting the limitations of claims 15 and 16 except for the Maher describing being on a global multicast group and instead of the subnet group claimed. Applicants, however, submit that that is not the only distinction. Previously, the Examiner had used a different reference, Meier, in rejecting the claims. In the same way as previously distinguishing from Meier, applicants have not found any teaching in Maher that includes the ability for one client device to respond to the leave message of another client device much less to respond to the detected leave message with a join message. Accordingly, applicants submit that the claims patentably distinguish from the cited references.

The Office Action contains numerous statements characterizing the claims, the Specification, and the prior art. Regardless of whether such statements are addressed by Applicant, Applicant refuses to subscribe to any of these statements, unless expressly indicated by Applicant. .

No amendment made was related to the statutory requirements of patentability unless expressly stated herein. No amendment made was for the purpose of narrowing the scope of any claim, unless Applicant has argued herein that such amendment was made to distinguish over a particular reference or combination of references.

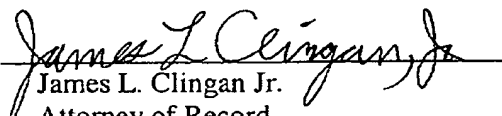
Applicants believe the application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully solicited. Please contact the below-signed if there are any issues regarding this communication or otherwise concerning the current application.

Respectfully submitted,

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